(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pact with Russia for combating tenwtan

644. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(al) whether it is a fact that India; and Russia have signed a pact on combating terrorism and illicit trafficking in narcotic drags etc.; and

(b) if so, th$_e$ details of this pact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (aft Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Agree ment are to develop interaction in the field of combating crime against life, freedom, dignity of the person and pro perty and to combat organised and in ternational crime, terrorist activities; to combat Ulicit operations with weapons, ammunition, explosives, toxic substances and. radioactive materials; to combat illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psycho tropic substances; to combat manufac ture and sale of forged documents, money and securities; to combat crimes con nected with economic activities; to com bat illict operations with precious stones and metals: prevention of illegal migra tion as well as illicit stay of persons and to combat illicit trade etc.

Opening of offices in South Africa

645. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA; Will the Minister of EXTER NAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(at) whether Government have decided to open foreign offices in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions have been worked out with the visiting South African team; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEEDO: (a) to (c) During the visit to India by South African Foreign Minister. Mr. R. F. Botha, from November 21-22, 1993. India and South Africa signed two protocols, one on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the other on the establishment of consular relations. As a result thereof, it ha$_s$ been decided to upgrade the existing Indian Cultural Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, into a Consulate General. Plans for offices in Durban and Pretoria are also under consideration. The South African. Representative Office in New Delhi is also being upgraded.

Recognition of Sikkim *ag* part of India by China

646. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: '

(a) whether the question of recognition of Sikkim as part of India by China, was taken up during Prime Minister's recent visit *to* China in connection with Sino-India border issuer and

(b) if so, what wag the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India's position that Sikkim is an integral part of India, has been conveyed to the Chinese authorities on several occasions including PM's visit to China. The Chinese authorities are therefore aware of India's position and have noted it.

Nuclear explosion test by China

647. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the nuclear explosion test conducted by China recently; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Gov-ernment with regard thereto?